

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SY-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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R 261700Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, UR, XF

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 193194 (B) STATE 206155 (C) STATE 210911

1. POLAD CALLED ON SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR BELETSKIY OCTOBER 25 TO PRESENT UNILATERAL ORAL STATEMENT ON PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN AS INSTRUCTED REF B. IN ADDITION TO RECITAL OF POINTS SET FORTH PARA 2 REF A, POLAD OBSERVED THAT RECENT TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN WEST BERLIN, INCLUDING ARREST OF FOUR ARABS WITH EXPLOSIVES IN THEIR POSSESSION, GAVE PARTICULAR IMPETUS TO OUR PRESENT CONCERN, ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT WE WERE NOT ATTEMPTING TO ALLEGE SPECIFIC CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THESE INCIDENTS AND PLO EAST BERLIN OFFICE. (STORY OF ARREST WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN OCTOBER 25 MORNING PRESS, BUT INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO WEST BERLIN POLICE INDICATES THE ARABS CONCERNED OPERATED OUT OF AND WERE DIRECTED FROM BEIRUT, AND HAD NO KNOWN CONNECTIONS WITH PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN.)

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2. IN RESPONSE, BELETSKIY SAID THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE THREE POINTS, WHICH REPRESENTED HIS PERSONAL OPINION AND NOT OFFICIAL POSITION: (1) PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN LAY SOLELY WITHIN COMPETENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GDR AUTHORITIES, AND IF US HAD COMPLAINTS TO MAKE REGARDING OFFICE THEY SHOULD BE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO THOSE AUTHORITIES (REGULAR BELETSKIY-ROMANOVSKIY LINE); (2) HE DID NOT SHARE OUR NEGATIVE JUDGMENT OF PLO, WHICH HAD COME INTO BEING ONLY AS COUNTER TO "BARBARISM" OF ISRAELIS; BUT (3) HE WOULD INFORM HIS AMBASSADOR OF OUR APPROACH. POLAD USED STANDARD ARGUMENTATION TO REJECT BELETSKIY'S FIRST POINT. ON SECOND POINT, BELETSKIY ARGUED THAT PLO WAS "GOOD ORGANIZATION" WHICH HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO EMBRACE EXTREMIST TACTICS OF ITS OPPONENTS. BELETSKIY CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIETS "DO NOT SUPPORT" SUCH TACTICS ON ANYBODY'S PART.

3. BRITISH AND FRENCH WERE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF PLAN TO MAKE UNILATERAL DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS RE PLO OFFICE AND THEY OFFERED NO DEMURRER. WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED THEM OF OUTCOME OF DEMARCHE.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
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**Disposition Authority:** thigpegh  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, GC, UR, PLO  
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